

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12 ACDA-12 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 EA-10 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /113 W  
-----129156 021153Z /72

P R 021026Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7731  
SECDEF PRIORITY  
DIRNSA, FT. MEADE MD. PRIORITY  
CINCPAC  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3456

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN - ALSO FOR USDAOs

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AF  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON SUCCESSFUL COUP

1. IN A MEETING MONDAY, MAY 1, WITH OECD AMBASSADORS (FRENCH, FRG, ITALIAN, JAPANESE, BRITISH, AMERICAN) HELD AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, FRENCH AMB. PERRUCHE INFORMED THE GROUP THAT HE HAD VISITED ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN, AMB. PUZANOV, WHO IS ALSO THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN KABUL, TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE COUP THAT HAD JUST TAKEN PLACE. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR INFORMED PERRUCHE THAT THE COUP CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO HIM. AT THE TIME THAT THE FIRST TANKS WERE ROLLING INTO THE CITY TOWARD THE PALACE FROM PUL-I-CHARKI, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR  
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WAS ESCORTING TO THE AIRPORT A FRONTIER COMMISSION DELEGATION FROM THE USSR IN ORDER TO SEE THEM OFF AT NOON ON THE REGULAR THURSDAY AEROFLOT FLIGHT TO MOSCOW. PERRUCHE MADE THE COMMENT TO PUZANOV THAT THE STATEMENTS BEING BROADCAST ON RADIO AFGHANISTAN COULD ALMOST HAVE BEEN MADE UP BY PRESIDENT DAOUD. PUZANOV COMMENTED THAT THE STATEMENTS WERE MORE PROGRESSIVE THAN THOSE PREPARED BY THE DAOUD REGIME, AND THEN ADDED,

"JUDGE THE NEW REGIME NOT BY WORDS, BUT BY DEEDS."

2. THE FRG AMBASSADOR, F.J. HOFFMANN, WHO IS THE VICE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, VISITED AMBASSADOR PUZANOV ON SUNDAY, APRIL 30. PUZANOV SAID THAT ON THURSDAY, APRIL 27, HE HAD BEEN TO THE AIRPORT AND HAD RETURNED HOME, WAS HAVING LUNCH PRIOR TO GOING FISHING AT THE NAGHLU DAM LOCATED IN KABUL GORGE. WHEN HE HEARD THE FIRST FIRING, HE CANCELLED HIS FISHING TRIP. PUZANOV TOLD HOFFMANN THAT THE SITUATION ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING AND EARLY FRIDAY WAS VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE SOVIETS AT THE EMBASSY, WHICH IS LOCATED ON DARULAMAN ROAD, AS THERE WAS A LOT OF FIGHTING AND TANK FIRING UP AND DOWN THE MAIN ROAD IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY. PUZANOV ENDED THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING TO HOFFMAN, THAT WE MUST THANK THE LORD WE ARE SAFE." PUZANOV THEN STATED THAT ONE OF THE DAUD'S GREAT PROBLEMS WAS THAT HE HAD REMOVED PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND HAD PUT IN LESS COMPETENT PEOPLE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT DAUD HAD MISJUDGED THE SITUATION AND THAT DAUD THOUGHT THAT ON TUESDAY NIGHT, APRIL 25, HE HAD ARRESTED ALL OF THE "PROGRESSIVE" LEADERS, BUT HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T GET ALL OF THEM AS WAS EVIDENCED BY THE SUCCESSFUL COUP. ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION, PUZANOV INFORMED HOFFMANN THAT THE USSR BASICALLY HAD NO PROBLEM AS THE SOVIETS RECOGNIZED STATES AND NOT REGIMES. (IT WAS ANNOUNCED ON RADIO AFGHANISTAN THE EVENING OF APRIL 30 THAT, AS PER KABUL 3381, THE USSR HAD EXTENDED OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME.)  
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ELIOT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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